

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR**

**JULY 1999**

***MEMBERS:***

*Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair*

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain, III*

*Sen. S. Peter Mills*

*Rep. Pamela Henderson Hatch, Chair*

*Rep. Roland B. Samson*

*Rep. Zachary E. Matthews*

*Rep. Roger D. Frechette*

*Rep. Albion D. Goodwin*

*Rep. Christopher T. Muse*

*Rep. Russell P. Treadwell*

*Rep. Jay MacDougall*

*Rep. Adam Mack*

*Rep. Gerald M. Davis*

***Staff:***

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

*CARRIED OVER*..... *Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*  
*CON RES XXX*..... *Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... *Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*  
*DIED BETWEEN BODIES*..... *House & Senate disagree; bill died*  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... *One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... *Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*  
*EMERGENCY*..... *Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... *Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage*  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... *Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died*  
*INDEF PP*..... *Bill Indefinitely Postponed*  
*ONTP*..... *Ought Not To Pass report accepted*  
*OTP ND*..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*  
*OTP ND/NT*..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*  
*P&S XXX*..... *Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... *Chapter # of enacted Public Law*  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... *Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*  
*UNSIGNED*..... *Bill held by Governor*  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... *Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

**LD 555****Resolve, to Require the Department of Labor to Establish a Living Wage****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TWOMEY	ONTP	

LD 555 proposed to require the Department of Labor to establish a living wage to replace the minimum wage statewide, taking into consideration expenditures for an average household in Maine.

**LD 566****Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Contractual Obligation for Members of the Maine State Retirement System****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNE NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 566 proposed to amend the Maine Constitution to make membership for state employees and teacher in the Maine State Retirement System a contractual relationship between the State and those employees, the benefits of which may not be diminished or impaired. Pension benefits could be reduced only for public employees hired after the effective date of a law diminishing benefits.

**LD 574****An Act to Repeal the Chemical Substance Identification Law****PUBLIC 57**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH MILLS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-53

LD 574 proposed to repeal the state chemical substance identification law, which required employers to communicate information regarding chemicals in the workplace to workers and to the Bureau of Labor Standards. The provisions of that law have been superseded by federal law and regulation.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Labor.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-53)** proposed to clarify that the Board of Pesticide Control is not responsible for enforcement inspections under the law being repealed, and to clarify that the board must assist the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards in providing training and education to agricultural employers, rather than giving the board sole responsibility to provide that education and training.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 57 repeals the state chemical substance identification law, which has been superseded by federal law and regulations. The law also clarifies the responsibilities of the Board of Pesticide Control with regard to training and educating agricultural employers.